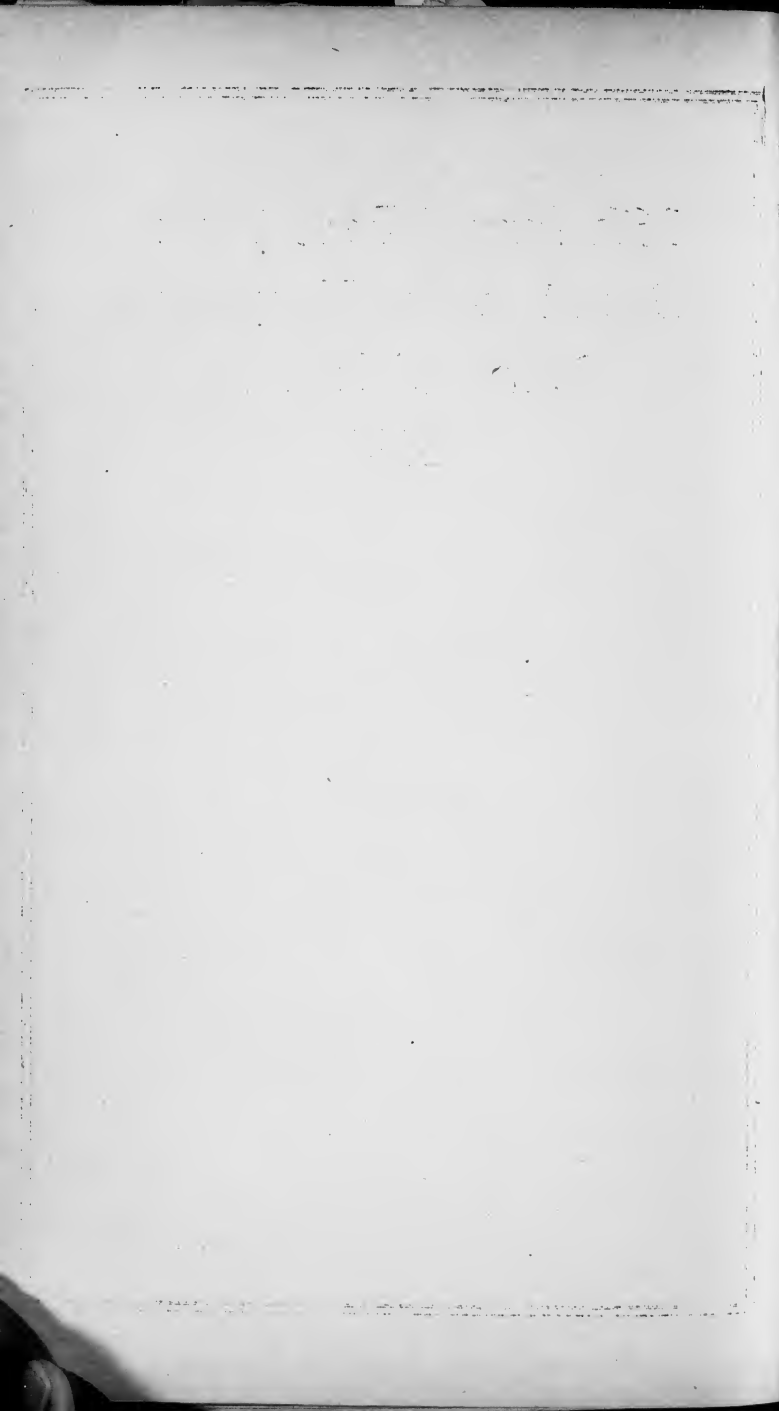


**16th Annual Report of the
Department of Playgrounds
District of Columbia
1927**

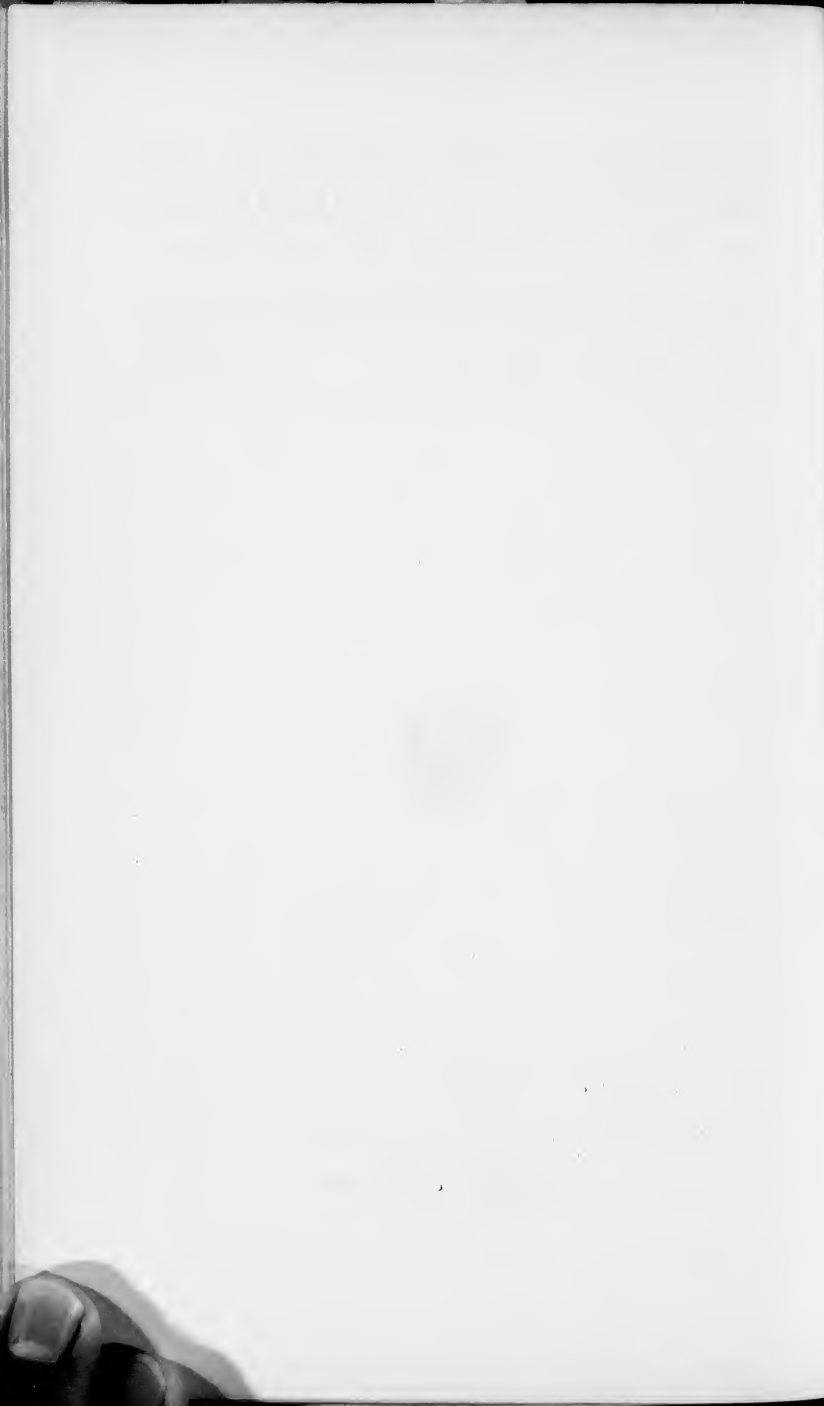


SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
DEPARTMENT *of* PLAYGROUNDS
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1927

MRS. SUSIE ROOT RHODES - - - - Supervisor



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SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PLAYGROUNDS, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WASHINGTON, D. C., *August 15, 1927.*

To the COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:

The supervisor of playgrounds presents herewith her twelfth report, which is the sixteenth annual report of the department of playgrounds. This covers the period from July 1, 1926, to June 30, 1927.

Two new playgrounds were opened July 1, 1926. Twenty-eight municipal grounds were in operation, with supervision for the full 12 months, for the first time in the city's history; with 1 play station, 35 school grounds were open during the summer, and 10 of these grounds remained open daily after school during the school term both fall and spring, so that the number of play centers open at any one time varied from 64 during the summer, 39 in the fall and spring, to 29 in January and February. The department also looks after the Reno Tennis Courts on the concrete cover of the Reno Reservoir in Tenleytown, the 3 municipal swimming pools on the Monument Lot, the 3 playground swimming pools, and 5 wading pools. Among the extended uses to the community of the municipal playgrounds is the play station at Children's Hospital. It has been possible to give play facilities to most sections of the city, however, not yet within walking distance of all the children of the District. A well-balanced program of athletics has been combined with a sufficient amount of constructive play to keep the children interested.

The playground is the gathering place where children from different homes come together to have a common interest, where they learn that success depends on their ability to work with others. The games and activities are the means used to secure fundamental results—habits of honesty, regard for others as well as the fine art of cooperation, how to lead, when to submit, when to call help, when to resist, and how to command. We believe that recreation aside from its pleasure purpose and its health-giving qualities, is an essential activity in the building of character and citizenship.

The aim of the playground department is to provide for the children an opportunity for physical betterment and to provide real fun. It promotes beneficial sports and games that should develop desire of efficiency, sense of justice, and admiration of skill. In the schedule of the different activities care is taken to adapt the event to the strength of the children. It is the policy of the department to employ only experienced instructors or those who have taken our playground training course.

Washington has done much for the playground movement in general. It was here that the first training class for playground workers was held. It was here that the thought was born and spread that playgrounds were good for all the children of all the people. Until

a playground was opened in the District in a well-to-do neighborhood, playgrounds the country over were for poor children only. It was here that the daily press gave more attention to the needs of the playgrounds than was given in many other cities. Washington newspapers lead the way in giving playground activities space as news items familiarizing the public with playground work and its benefits.

The athletics of the public elementary schools of the District of Columbia are played off on the municipal playgrounds, where teams representing the schools in basket ball, baseball, and soccer, for boys; basket ball and schlag ball for girls, play for the division and city championship. The attendance is not obligatory, but is fostered and encouraged by many school principals, who believe, that more than being good exercise and fine sport, the athletic games promote school spirit and loyalty. These contests are carefully supervised by the playground director. All athletic goods are furnished by the municipal playground department, and a high standard of sportsmanship is maintained.

The playground directors encourage extensive rather than intensive athletics, having found that highly specialized athletics destroy the play idea. They feel every boy and girl should have an equal chance in the general sports, and should play each game long enough to develop teamwork. The game is of the most interest when the rules have been learned by all and opportunity given each to acquire proficiency in the playing of it. In our system of competition we put as much emphasis on the conduct of the players as on the winning of the contest, thus in a way our play may be considered an individual matter, although the effort of the instructor is directed to the group rather than coaching to high efficiency the individual. Individual accomplishments are encouraged, especially through the athletic badge tests, where the award is for progress and ability in self-mastery rather than mastery of opponents. The tests are offered to determine how nearly every boy and girl measures up to normal standard of strength and skill.

When we take into consideration the intolerable condition of the city streets as a play space for children, we believe the best way to meet the long, idle summer vacation days is supervised play in school yards even though most of those yards are too small to take care of any but the little children.

In the past five years our growth has not been so much by the purchase of new grounds as in the opening of locked-up school yards. By clearing out the rubbish, these old yards have become new playgrounds with supervision for the children of Washington through the municipal playground department under the supervision of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia.

The park playgrounds are far more attractive to the children than the school grounds. The children enjoy the green grass and shade and the border plantings, which they never disturb. On school playgrounds there is little beauty of design and almost never room for a ball field; most of the school playgrounds are small and suitable for the youngest children only. It is a constant grief to us that the older boys must daily be sent elsewhere to play; if allowed on the smaller grounds the little children are crowded out entirely.

We are very enthusiastic about mass-play games. There is much free play and quiet games; there are tennis tournaments, tin-can golf, roller-skating contests, quoit pitching, and the athletic badge test for boys and girls, and track and field events on each ground are of great interest.

The facilities for active recreation in our Federal parks and public-school yards, in addition to those of the municipal department, were used very extensively. This has been the most successful year the playground department has ever experienced. Few cities in the country carry on as diversified a program. All of our grounds are used to the fullest capacity. This does not mean, however, all are crowded at every hour of the day, for there is always a rising and falling tide of children. It does mean that the average attendance taxes every resource of those in charge of the ground. The need of more play fields is apparent.

We have not generous equipment on our grounds, but what we have is well chosen, well set, and very attractive to the children. A good supply of material is very necessary and helps to keep the children busy and happy.

Instruction is given in many kinds of handwork. In our occupational play the children are taught the things that interest them—needle work, darning, embroidery, crocheting, tatting, knitting, machine sewing, jig sawing, flower making, paper cutting, the making of small garments, and basketry of various sorts of reed, raffia, and splints.

Exhibitions were held on each ground at the close of the summer season; parents and neighbors were invited to see the work. An exhibit of handwork done by the Washington children on municipal playgrounds during the past summer was installed in the industrial exhibit of the Washington Chamber of Commerce in the Washington Auditorium, March 9 to 19. In the exhibit was a model playground, made possible by using miniature models of playground apparatus loaned by the Everwear Co. The exhibit comprised drawings, modeling, woodwork, basketry, sewing, crocheting, embroidery, and paper furniture. There was opportunity to give information regarding playgrounds to many visitors.

One of the most pleasant duties performed by this department during the year was assisting the Agricultural Department's Extension Bureau in the entertainment of its 4-H Club honor members on the occasion of a convention held in Washington, which was in session from June 16 to 23. Eighty girls and 80 boys and their leaders were camped on the Agriculture grounds near the municipal pools. Arrangements were made by F. J. Brunner, superintendent, whereby the pools were opened at 6 a. m. with life guards and attendants on duty, so that the young visitors could enjoy a plunge before breakfast. Richard S. Tennyson, director of boys' activities, and Miss Maude N. Parker, director of girls' activities of the playground department, were invited to conduct games with the entire group. A program of mass play events was given and the young people evinced keen enjoyment in what was to most of them new games.

During the year several gifts were received by the department that aided in the promotion of activities. The Washington Post gave cups and medals for three field and track meets, namely, boys' track

meet on white grounds, girls' track meet on white grounds, and boys' track meet on colored grounds. With these trophies as an added incentive, interest in the annual meets was increased greatly. Walford Bros., sporting goods dealers, gave two cups as trophies to the eastern and western champions in the elementary-school soccer tournament, conducted by this department. Heretofore the sectional winners have not been rewarded. George & Co., clothiers, renewed their annual Christmas gifts of several hundred pairs of gloves and caps to the playground children. These were distributed by the playground directors to those who were most in need.

Our three playground swimming pools were open from 9 to 12 hours per day. Georgetown and Rosedale from 9 a. m. until 6 p. m., where regular swimming classes were held daily. Howard, the only pool for colored people in the city, was open from 6 a. m. until 6 p. m., with mixed bathing from 6 to 9 a. m., then regular swimming classes both morning and afternoon. The attendance at Georgetown pool was 10,402 boys and 9,123 girls, making a total of 19,525. The attendance at Rosedale was 18,121 boys and 14,870 girls, making a total of 32,991. For Howard pool, boys and men, 26,733; girls and women, 9,914, making a total of 36,647; total for playground pools 89,163.

Under the direction of F. J. Brunner, superintendent of the municipal bathing pools, hundreds of girls and boys attended the elementary instruction classes. In addition to elementary instruction, there were classes in life saving and fancy diving which were taken advantage of by the swimmers of the city, both men and women. The pools were open from 6 a. m. to 6 p. m. with mixed bathing the first three hours. On Monday, Wednesday, and Friday the pools were open from 9 to 4 for girls, from 4 to 6 for women. On Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 9 to 4 for boys, and from 4 to 6 for men. Three thousand, four hundred and ninety-five attended classes, 57,554 total attendance at pools.

LIST OF MUNICIPAL PLAYGROUNDS

WHITE

- Bloomingdale.*—First and Bryant Streets NW.
- Burroughs.*—Eighteenth and Monroe Streets NE.
- Chevy Chase.*—Forty-first and Livingston Streets NW.
- Columbia Heights.*—Columbia Road NW., between Georgia and Sherman Avenues.
- Gallinger.*—F Street NW., between Twenty-first and Twenty-second Streets.
- Garfield.*—Second and F Streets SE.
- Georgetown.*—Thirty-third Street and Volta Place NW.
- Happy Hollow.*—Eighteenth Street and Kalorama Road NW.
- Hoover.*—Second Street and Delaware Avenue SW.
- Iowa Avenue.*—Iowa Avenue NW., between Varnum and Webster Streets.
- Mitchell Park.*—Twenty-third and S Streets NW.
- Montrose Park.*—Thirtieth and R Streets NW.
- New York Avenue.*—First Street and New York Avenue NW.
- Park View.*—Warder and Otis Streets NW.
- Phillips.*—Between Eighth, Ninth, Longfellow, and Madison Streets NW.
- Plaza.*—Second and E Streets NE.
- Rosedale.*—Seventeenth and Kramer Streets NE.
- Takoma.*—Fourth, Fifth, Van Buren, and Whittier Streets NW.
- Thomson.*—Twelfth and L Streets NW.
- Twin Oaks.*—Fourteenth and Taylor Streets NW.
- Virginia Avenue.*—Virginia Avenue SE., between Ninth and Eleventh Streets.

COLORED

Cardoza.—First and I Streets SW.
Barry Farm.—Nichols Avenue, Anacostia, D. C.
Logan.—Third and G Streets NE.
Howard.—Fifth and W Streets NW.
Payne.—Fifteenth and C Streets SE.
Rose Park.—Twenty-seventh and O Streets NW.
Willow Tree.—Third, Four and a half, B, and C Streets SW.

Ida May Gales Memorial Play Station.—Children's Hospital.
Reno Tennis Courts.—Donaldson and Ellicott Streets NW.

SCHOOL YARDS OPEN DURING THE SUMMER, 1926

WHITE

Adams.—Seventeenth Street and New Hampshire Avenue NW.
Arthur.—Arthur Place NW.
Bowen.—Third and K Streets SW.
Brookland.—Tenth and Monroe Streets NE.
Buchanan.—Thirteenth and E Streets SE.
Cooke.—Seventeenth and Euclid Streets NW.
Congress Heights.—Congress Heights, D. C.
Corcoran.—Twenty-eighth and M Streets NW.
Dennison.—S Street NW., between Thirteenth and Fourteenth Streets.
Eaton.—Thirty-fourth and Lowell Streets NW.
Emery.—Lincoln Road and Prospect Street NE.
Fairbrother.—Tenth and E Streets SW.
Filmore.—Thirty-fifth and R Streets NW.
Hayes.—Fifth and K Streets NE.
Jefferson, Jr.—Sixth and D Streets SW.
Johnson.—Hiatt Place and Lamont Street NW.
Ketcham.—Fifteenth and U Streets SE.
Ludlow.—Sixth and G Streets NE.
Orr.—Twenty-second and Prout Streets SE.
Polk-Henry.—Seventh and P Streets NW.
Tenley.—Wisconsin Avenue and Yoma Street NW.
Van Ness.—Third and M Streets SE.
Weightman.—Twenty-third and M Streets NW.
Wheatley.—Twelfth and N Streets NE.
Wallach.—Eighth and D Streets SE.

COLORED

Briggs.—Twenty-second Street and Virginia Avenue NW.
Bruce.—Kenyon Street NW., between Georgia and Sherman Avenues.
Burrville.—Burrville, D. C.
Cleveland.—Eighth and T Streets NW.
Crummell.—Central Avenue NE.
Deanwood.—Deanwood, D. C.
Giddings.—Third and G Streets SE.
Lovejoy.—Twelfth and D Streets NE.
Magruder.—Eighteenth and M Streets NW.
Slater-Langston.—North Capitol and P Streets.

SCHOOL YARDS OPEN DAILY, AFTER SCHOOL HOURS, DURING THE FALL AND SPRING TERMS

WHITE

Adams.—Seventeenth Street and New Hampshire Avenue NW.
Cooke.—Seventeenth and Euclid Streets NW.
Corcoran.—Twenty-eighth and M Streets NW.
Hayes.—Fifth and K Streets NE.
Jefferson, Jr.—Sixth and D Streets SW.
Johnson, Jr.—Hiatt Place and Lamont Street NW.
Wheatley.—Twelfth and N Streets NE.

COLORED

Briggs.—Twenty-second and E Streets NW.

Giddings.—Third and G Streets SE.

Magruder.—Eighteenth and M Streets NW.

MUNICIPAL PLAYGROUNDS—SUMMER SCHEDULE

RICHARD S. TENNYSON, Director of Boys' Activities

MEN DIRECTORS' PROGRAM

- 9.00- 9.45 Baseball.
- 9.45-11.00 Button test.
- 11.00-12.30 Field and track sports (train for interplayground meet).
- 1.00- 2.00 Baseball.
- 2.00- 3.00 Apparatus work (stunts, chinning, etc.).
- 3.00- 4.00 Button-test practice (do not give tests at this time. Let the boys practice the various tests).
- 4.00- 4.30 Quoits (conduct tournaments for boys in different weight and age classes).

LATE SHIFT

- 1.00- 2.00 Baseball.
 - 2.00- 3.30 Button-test practice.
 - 3.30- 5.00 Field and track sports (train for interplayground meet).
 - 5.00- 6.00 Apparatus work, quoits.
 - 6.00- 7.00 Organized baseball game with two teams picked from your ground.
- Make report of day's work.

SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS—SUMMER SCHEDULE

- 10.00-11.30 Baseball (volley ball where baseball is not allowed).
- 11.00-11.30 Athletic button test.
- 11.30- 1.00 Field and track events.
- 1.00- 1.30 Free play (lunch time).
- 1.30- 2.30 Baseball.
- 2.30- 3.30 Quoits.
- 3.30- 4.30 Contests of various kinds (mass play, volley ball, stunts).
- 4.30- 6.00 Competitive baseball games (organize two teams and play seven innings).

Make report of day's work.

MUNICIPAL PLAYGROUNDS—SUMMER SCHEDULE

MAUDE N. PARKER, Director of Girls' Activities

WOMEN DIRECTORS' PROGRAMS

- 9.00- 9.30 Apparatus work, or free and running games.
 - 9.30-10.00 Organized games.
 - 10.00-10.30 Stories.
 - 10.00-11.00 Wading pool (girls).
 - 10.30-11.00 Ring games.
 - 11.00-12.00 Kindergarten.
 - 11.00-12.00 Wading pool (boys).
 - 12.00- 1.00 Free play.
 - 1.00- 1.30 Stories and quiet games.
 - Attend to giving out material, disciplining ground, etc.
 - 1.30- 3.00 Basketry or construction work.
 - Athletic button test for boys.
 - 3.00- 4.00 Athletic button test for girls.
 - Games for boys.
 - Wading pool (girls).
 - 4.00- 5.00 Wading pool (boys).
 - 4.00- 6.00 Industrial work, sewing, knitting, crocheting, etc.
 - 6.00- 6.30 Free play (time to get ground in order for evening).
 - 6.30- 7.00 Ring games, folk dances, music.
- Make report of day's work.

SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS—SUMMER SCHEDULE

- 10.00-10.30 Organized games, or free and running games.
 10.30-11.00 Stories.
 11.00-11.30 Ring games.
 11.30-12.30 Kindergarten.
 12.30- 1.00 Free play (lunch time).
 1.00- 2.00 Athletic button test.
 2.00- 2.30 Stories and quiet games.
 2.30- 3.00 Paddle tennis, croquet, quoits, bean-bag games.
 3.00- 5.00 Industrial work (sewing, embroidering, knitting, crocheting).
 5.00- 5.30 Minor sports, tether, new games.
 5.30- 6.00 Free play.
 Make report of day's work.

ATHLETIC BUTTON TEST

It was deemed feasible during the year to revise the athletic efficiency test rules, as the youngsters come to the playgrounds young and by the time they had reached the age that the first test could be taken most of them went through the necessary events with ease. This is looked upon as a good sign by the playground department workers, as the old test was considered difficult several years ago, showing that the younger generation of the District is becoming more proficient in its sports. The revised test is considerably more difficult than the old, and it should stand as a worthy proof of athletic proficiency for several years.

REVISED ATHLETIC BUTTON TEST

GIRLS' BRONZE-BUTTON TEST

Goal throwing: Throw a basket ball into its goal twice out of six trials from the 15-foot line.

Dash: Fifty-yard dash in $8\frac{1}{2}$ seconds.

Balancing: Walk the length of the beam and return, using the high step; execute one original step. Contestants may have two trials.

Folk dancing: Two dances. Contestant judged in memory and spirit.

Swimming: Swim 20 feet.

Potato race: Run a potato race in 25 seconds. (Place four potatoes 10 feet apart, the first one being 10 feet from the starting line.) The contestant runs and picks up the first potato, places over the line; then the second, and so on until all are taken.

GIRLS' SILVER-BUTTON TEST

Throw for distance: Throw a basket ball, covering at least 50 feet.

Dash: Sixty-yard dash in $8\frac{1}{2}$ seconds.

Swimming: Swim length of playground pool (80 feet), using free style and back strokes.

Sportsmanship: Play in an organized series with at least six games on the schedule in any of the following: Basket ball, schlag ball, dodge ball, volley ball, or play through a tennis or tin-can golf tournament of the round-robin type.

Goal throwing: Throw a basket ball into its goal four out of six trials from the 15-foot line.

Folk dancing: Three dances (not used in previous test). Contestants judged in memory and spirit.

GIRLS' GOLD-BUTTON TEST

Leadership: Assist with kindergarten, ring games, or free games at least twice a week for a month, averaging two hours a week.

Sportsmanship: Be able to play and officiate at least four of the following games: Basket ball, schlag ball, volley ball, tennis, dodge ball, and quoits.

Vocational: Complete two pieces of industrial work along the following lines—Sewing, knitting, crocheting, and basketry.

Swimming: Swim out to person supposedly drowning, grasp with accepted hold, and tow the remaining length of pool.

Folk dancing: Four dances (not used in previous test). Contestant judged in memory and spirit.

Throw for distance: Throw a basket ball, covering at least 65 feet.

A girl must complete four out of six activities to win a button.
Only one button may be earned in a year.

BOYS' BRONZE-BUTTON TEST

Goal throwing (three out of six trials): Contestant must throw three baskets out of six attempts from the 15-foot mark.

Dash: Fifty yards in eight seconds.

Running hop, step, and jump: Twenty-six feet.

Chin four times with body rigid.

Standing broad jump: Five feet four inches.

Swim: Thirty feet.

BOYS' SILVER-BUTTON TEST

Throw three strikes out of five from a distance of 50 feet. A strike is a ball passing over the home plate between the knee and shoulders of a batter about the height of the contestant. Batter should stand in erect position.

Dash: Sixty yards in eight seconds.

Running hop, step, and jump: Twenty-eight feet.

Chin six times with body rigid.

Swim the length of playground pool (80 feet), using back, crawl, and breast stroke.

Throw four goals out of six attempts from 15-foot line.

BOYS' GOLD-BUTTON TEST

Organize teams and officiate in 10 regulation games.

One hundred-yard dash: Twelve seconds.

Running hop, step, and jump: Thirty feet.

Chin eight times with body rigid.

Running broad jump: Sixteen feet.

Start at end of pool and swim to person in center supposedly drowning, grasp suit or hair, and tow him remaining length.

A boy must complete four of the six events to win button.

Only one button a year may be won.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BASEBALL

The elementary school baseball series was opened in March and continued until June 15. As in soccer, two series in each of the seven divisions were held, one for the seventh and eighth grade boys and one for the sixth graders. It was the first time that a baseball series for the small boys had been conducted, and it was well received. In the two tourneys there were 140 teams and about 4,000 boys entered. No city series was held for the sixth-grade leagues, but pennants were awarded each of the seven division champions by this department.

The seniors' city-championship games, as usual, created city-wide attention, and the high type of competition that has characterized these annual games again prevailed. After some heated contests Gales-Blake won the eastern-section championship and Monroe won the title in the western. The two sectional champions then met in

what was planned to be a best 2 out of 3 series, but an 11-inning tie in the second match necessitated 4 games before Gales-Blake was declared the city champion and received the playground trophy emblematic of the same.

The divisions and champions were: Bloomingdale, Langdon School; Columbia Heights, Monroe School; Garfield, Smallwood-Bowen School; Georgetown, E. V. Brown School; Rosedale, Maury School; Virginia Avenue, Ketcham School; and Plaza, Gales-Blake School.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TRACK

Realizing that the present reorganization period of the elementary schools was likely to have some effect on the playground competitive activities in the schools, the playground directors put forth extra efforts to interest the boys in the annual spring meets. As a result the seven divisions and the city meet surpassed all previous marks. Another incentive to the young track athletes was the well-conditioned Plaza track that has been available to schoolboys from every section of the city since last spring. This track is one of the most important single factors in the playground organization, and its location could not be more ideal. It lies in the center of the city near the Union Station and is reached by bus lines and street cars from every section of Washington.

Monroe School's track team won the annual city meet after a hard struggle with 40 teams that had qualified for the finals. When the final points were tallied it was found that the winners had but a four-point margin over E. V. Brown, the runner up.

The divisions and champions were: Bloomingdale, John Burroughs; Columbia Heights, Monroe; Garfield, Wallach; Georgetown, E. V. Brown; Plaza, Gales-Arthur; Virginia Avenue, Buchanan; and Rosedale, Maury.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SOCCER BALL

The number of boys who took part in the municipal playgrounds department's elementary school soccer series during the season 1926-27, was 2,500, slightly more than double the figure of 1925-26.

So enthused were the youngsters over the game that the playground officials formed leagues for the sixth-grade boys in addition to the usual senior tourney, composed of boys in the seventh and eighth grades. In all, 149 teams entered the two sections. No city-wide tourney was held for the sixth graders although plans are being formulated to select a sixth grade city champion for the season of 1927-28 similar to the series held each year for the senior elementary school soccerists.

The city champion trophy was won by the Peabody School, eastern section finalists, after a hard-fought series with Park View School, leaders in the western section. Four games were required to settle the title.

Peabody won the first match 1 to 0 and Park View took the second 2 to 1. The third was a scoreless tie and the fourth and deciding match was won by Peabody 4 to 1. It is Peabody's first soccer championship.

Color was given the series when players from the Washington Soccer League, a newly formed adult organization composed largely of legation attachés and former local grade-school boys, volunteered as officials, while many of the foreign diplomatic colony stood on the side lines and shouted instructions and advice to the youthful players.

BOYS' TENNIS

Tennis tournaments for boys 16 years of age and under were promoted on all grounds having tennis courts and the winners competed in a city-wide tourney for the city championship. Twenty grounds had representatives in the finals and 920 boys participated in the preliminary games.

The 20 winners were divided into eastern and western sections, 10 in each, and the final match was between the finalists of each section. The Garfield representative won the eastern section and Mitchell Park's champion won the western section, and after five thrilling sets the Mitchell Park lad won the title.

COLORED INTERPLAYGROUND TRACK MEET

Having as prizes the Post medals and cup, colored playground athletes numbering 620 vied for honors on the Cardozo track in the third annual interplayground field and track meet. Logan playground won for the second consecutive year. Boys qualified for the finals by entering elimination meets on the various grounds. Some remarkable records were made by the youthful athletes, one of the most noteworthy being an 18-foot leap by a 100-pound-class boy. In all, five new records were made.

COLORED BASEBALL

Toward the end of the summer season a baseball league was organized for the colored-school playgrounds. The teams were divided into two sections and after playing through a schedule the champions of each played a three-game series. Magruder playground won the title.

INTERPLAYGROUND TRACK MEET

The greatest track year in the history of playgrounds was enjoyed during the fiscal year of the present reporting. As has been mentioned in previous reports, this department is partial to track activities, as many more boys are given an opportunity to compete than in any other sport.

Early in the year the Washington Post proffered cups and medals to the playground department for its track meets and, with this as an added incentive, boys swarmed to the playgrounds by the thousands to train for the teams that were to compete in the final meet.

Eliminations were held on each ground, in which it is conservatively estimated that 15,000 took part. On August 17, 1,320 boys, representing 40 white grounds, reported on the Plaza playground

quarter-mile track for what resulted in the greatest demonstration of its kind ever held by this department. When the meet was about half finished, rain halted the games, and after several postponements the contests were completed, with the interest increased by the postponements rather than decreased.

After the closest kind of competition, Georgetown Playground won the meet and custody of the Washington Post cup for a period of one year. Georgetown scored 31 points, Plaza 30 $\frac{1}{4}$.

INTERPOOL SWIMMING MEET

The annual swimming meet between the Rosedale and Georgetown playground pools was conducted on a larger scale than in previous years. Instead of forming teams from frequenters of these two playgrounds only, boys in the entire eastern section of the city were encouraged to try for the Rosedale team, and likewise in the western section for the Georgetown team.

Trials were held in each pool and the life guards selected representative teams. The finals were held at Rosedale and resulted in an overwhelming victory for the home-tank men.

COLORED SWIMMING MEET

Having but one colored pool, competition for the colored swimmers is handled, necessarily, in a somewhat different manner from the white. Announcement was made that a swimming meet would be held and entries were accepted at the pool for three weeks previous.

Prizes were donated by merchants in the vicinity of the Howard playground, where the pool is located, and the boys were divided into age and weight classes to compete for them. About 200 swimmers crowded around the inclosure on the day of the meet, waiting for their events to be called. Boys from every section of the city entered.

OTHER ACTIVITIES ON COLORED PLAYGROUNDS

An active year was enjoyed on the colored playgrounds; all activities indulged in by the children on the white playgrounds were promoted. Leagues for volley ball, baseball, and basket ball were sponsored on each ground, and interplayground contests were arranged for tennis and track. Particular attention was paid to the button test on colored playgrounds and a large number of boys passed the first test and were awarded bronze buttons. Quoits and horseshoe pitching continued to be popular, and tournaments for both sports were held on every playground.

INTERPLAYGROUND BASKET BALL

The third annual interplayground basket ball series held during the past fall brought 20 playgrounds into competition. These were divided into four 5-team leagues and the champions of each met in a city championship series. About 250 boys played in the games.

GIRLS' ACTIVITIES

Girls numbering 10,000 took part in organized activities on the Washington playgrounds during the past year. An approximate division follows: Three thousand entered the track and field events which were conducted on all playgrounds; 400 participated in the city finals; 1,380 played on the schlag ball teams in the elementary school leagues; 250 took part in the swimming meets; 1,060 played in the school basket-ball series; over 800 played in the tennis tournaments; 300 in the interplayground basket-ball league and 360 in the dodge-ball tournament. In addition to the above activities there were leagues in volley ball and newcomb.

INTERPLAYGROUND TENNIS

Tennis tournaments were conducted in July on all playgrounds having the facilities, the winners qualifying for the city tournament held in August. Eighteen grounds were represented by teams of doubles in the final tourney which was played in sections in the round-robin fashion. Mitchell Park won section 1, Bloomingdale section 2, New York Avenue section 3, and Garfield section 4. In the semifinals Bloomingdale defeated Mitchell Park 6—4, 3—6, 6—3, and Garfield defeated New York Avenue 8—6, 6—1. Garfield took two straight sets from Bloomingdale in the final match 6—4 and 6—3, thus claiming the playground city tennis title for 1926.

GIRLS' INTERPLAYGROUND TRACK MEET

The third annual field and track meet for girls was held on the Plaza playground during the first week in September in which 400 girls participated. Preceding the finals, preliminary meets were conducted on all playgrounds, the winners qualifying for the city meet. It was one of the most popular events of the year. Georgetown playground with 33 points won, and New York Avenue playground and Virginia Avenue playground tied for second place with 19 points. The other scorers were: Rosedale, 17; Bloomingdale, 14; Garfield, 12; Takoma, 12; Twin Oaks, 12; Plaza, 10; Iowa, 9; Mitchell Park, 8; Montrose Park, 5; Chevy Chase, 4; Adams, 3; Phillips, 3; and Columbia Road, 1.

The Washington Post's gold, silver, and bronze medals were presented to the girls placing first, second, and third in each event. The cup was awarded the playground scoring the most number of points.

FALL ACTIVITIES FOR GIRLS

The cooler days of autumn is the time of our more vigorous sports and games. Basket ball is the most popular activity at this season. There are eight leagues representing the elementary public schools, and these games are conducted on the playgrounds after school hours. The interplayground league games take place on Saturdays. The smaller grounds have leagues in dodge ball, Newcomb ball, and many other games that are popular to that type of ground.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BASKET BALL

It is estimated that 1,460 girls played basket ball in organized leagues the past fall. Of this number the majority played in the elementary-school series which is conducted each year by the department. This league was divided into six divisions, with the following schools winning in their respective sections: Langdon School in Bloomingdale, Park View School in Columbia Heights, Curtis-Hyde in Georgetown, Peabody in Plaza, Blow School in Rosedale, and Buchanan School in Virginia Avenue.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SCHLAG BALL

Sixty-five schools were represented in the graded-school schlag ball series conducted during the spring months, with 1,148 girls playing on the teams. The league was divided into seven divisions. The winner in each division was as follows: Bloomingdale, Keene School; Columbia Heights, Park View School; Garfield, Van Ness School; Georgetown, Curtis-Hyde School; Plaza, Peabody School; Virginia Avenue, Buchanan School; and Rosedale, Pierce School.

GIRLS' ACTIVITIES ON COLORED PLAYGROUNDS

The daily program on the colored playgrounds is the same as the one used on the white grounds, with athletics, games, stories, industrial work, kindergarten, singing games, and folk dances. Track meets and tennis tournaments were held; efficiency tests given; elementary-school basket ball and schlag ball leagues were conducted and swimming taught.

Handwork was exhibited on each ground at the close of the summer season, some of it being shown in the industrial exhibit under the auspices of the chamber of commerce. The children had a part in the program given by the colored employees of the District Building in honor of Commissioner Rudolph.

TENNIS ON COLORED PLAYGROUNDS

Preliminary tennis tournaments were held on all playgrounds having the facilities before the finals were conducted. Each one was represented by a team of doubles in the city tourney. Howard won the title for 1926.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SCHLAG BALL ON COLORED GROUNDS

The graded-school schlag ball league was divided into four divisions, with 400 girls taking part in the games. The following schools won in their respective sections: New Bell School in the Cardozo; Shaw, Jr., in the Howard; Douglas-Twining in the Logan; and Wormley in the Rose Park.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BASKET BALL ON COLORED GROUNDS

A basket ball series from the elementary public schools was conducted on three of the colored playgrounds, with the following schools victorious: Logan School in the Logan division; Phillips School in the Rose Park division, and the Wilson School in the Howard di-

vision. Each school was presented with a silver cup, to remain in its possession for one year.

GIRLS' INTERPLAYGROUND BASKET BALL

For the first time in the history of playgrounds girls' organized basket ball was played outdoors during the month of January. The girls' interplayground series began in the late fall and continued through January. Eighteen teams were entered in the league. This league was divided into four sections so the girls would not have to go far from home for the games. Georgetown was the winner in section 1, Iowa Avenue in section 2, Rosedale in section 3, and Plaza in section 4. Rosedale defeated Plaza in the eastern division, and Iowa Avenue defeated Georgetown in the western. The winning teams met in a three-game series, Iowa Avenue taking two straight games.

GIRLS' SWIMMING MEETS

Swimming meets for girls were staged in the Georgetown and Rosedale pools, all girls physically fit being eligible to compete. The winners then met in an interpool meet held at Georgetown pool, August 31. The girls were divided into two classes and suitable events were arranged, the contestants being allowed to enter two races and one other event. The western section of the city scored the most number of points for the third consecutive year so the Lewton Cup remains at Georgetown playground.

THE GIRLS' ATHLETIC TEST

Test buttons are given to the girls by the department for efficiency in various playground activities. There are three tests for which they receive, respectively, bronze, silver, and gold buttons, only one being awarded to a girl in any one year. They must excel in leadership, sportsmanship, goal throwing, swimming, hiking, balancing, and folk dancing.

The buttons represent a woman bearing in her right hand the palm of victory and in her left hand the torch of wisdom with the eagle at her feet representing strength, and the mace, a symbol of power at her side.

The highest award, the gold button, was given to 50 girls last year. One hundred and eighty-five received silver buttons and 721 received bronze buttons.

FESTIVALS

Special attention has been given this branch of playground work. Each season brings its own particular need along this interesting line of recreation. The children look forward in springtime to May Day. They delight in the preparation for the lawn party in August, while joy is unbounded when the Hallowe'en goblin is mentioned, and with the first cold days of winter Christmas and the Christmas party is the main topic. All through the year the directors arranged many novel events for the patrons of the municipal playgrounds—baby

shows, doll parties, character parties, pet shows, and patriotic celebrations.

STORY TELLING

Story telling is a big attraction for the smaller children on the playgrounds. In the summer, especially during the hours when the weather is too warm for active games, the director finds a shady spot for the children and tells them tales of gallant knights and fairy princes, legends of old, and the wonders of nature. The stories are carefully selected so that the children may get the best in literature. Appropriate patriotic and seasonal stories are selected for special days. Story telling increases the attention and so the power of concentration. The retelling of the story by the children should lead to the use of good English.

KINDERGARTEN

During the fiscal year covered by this report special emphasis was given to outdoor kindergarten work for the little children. Playground kindergartens are pure play along educational lines. The work done is very elementary and the classes have proven very interesting. There is usually a period of songs and finger plays, then a story which may be the basis of handwork to follow; the handwork consists of paper cutting, card sewing, crayoning, and weaving. The age of the children vary from 3 to 7. The work is adapted to their individual ability, the older ones helping the younger ones and the teacher helping all. The work is not fine or small but planned after Montessori methods.

INDUSTRIAL WORK

The handcraft and industrial work in playgrounds develop creative powers and latent talents of the child. To direct the mind of the child toward useful occupation takes tact and ingenuity, each child selecting that form of occupational play most attractive to him. The result of the summer's work has been most satisfactory. Industrial exhibits were held on all grounds during the month of September.

REPAIR AND CONSTRUCTION DIVISION

Two new playgrounds were equipped for use this year and the apparatus on all grounds has been kept in repair by the construction force, under the supervision of the inspector of playgrounds. The surfacing, grading, and drainage of the grounds demands constant attention. The equipment is periodically inspected as to safety. The headquarters of the repair and construction division is at 1062 Wisconsin Avenue NW. The number of men carried on the labor roll varies during the year. They are directly responsible to the inspector for all work, materials, and tools.

REPORT OF THE BATHING POOLS AND SWIMMING POOLS

Under the direction of F. J. Brunner, superintendent, the municipal bathing pools at Seventeenth and B Streets SW. were opened for the season of 1926 on June 16 and closed September 18, and opened again on May 16 until June 30, 1927. During that time a total of 57,554 availed themselves of the free privilege; 3,495 patronized the classes. The monthly attendance shows that July is the most popular month at the pools. The attendance of the year follows: July—girls and women 11,291, girls' classes, 1,116; boys and men 12,349, boys' classes, 1,146; total, 25,902. For August—girls and women 8,142, girls' classes 436; boys and men 6,728, boys' classes, 453; total, 15,759. For September—girls and women 1,011, boys and men 772; total, 1,783. For May—girls and women 1,015, boys and men 1,695; total, 2,710. For June—girls and women 5,821, girls' classes 129; boys and men 5,255, boys' classes, 215; total, 11,420. In addition to the elementary swimming there were classes in life saving.

The pools, the largest of which is 45 by 100 feet, are emptied and cleaned every night. The water is kept sterile by introducing chloride of lime in quantity sufficient to give two parts chlorine to a million parts of water; this every six hours. The pools were open to the public from 6 a. m. to 6 p. m.

PLAYGROUND SWIMMING POOLS

Pools are located on the following playgrounds: Georgetown, Thirty-third Street and Volta Place; Rosedale, Seventeenth and Kramer Streets NE.; and Howard, Fifth and W Streets NW. (colored). Each pool will accommodate 100 bathers at a time. The pools are of the open-air type, 28 feet wide and 75 feet long, with a sloping depth of $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet to $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet. Each pool holds about 96,000 gallons of water, which is supplied from the city main. The water is filtered and the pools are so constructed that an overflow is always going off while they are in use. The water was frequently tested by the health authorities and the pools have been kept in a good sanitary condition.

Georgetown pool was open for boys from 9 a. m. to 6 p. m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and for girls on the same hours Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, with 19,525 in attendance. Rosedale pool, with the same hours, had boys' day on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, and girls' Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, with 32,991 in attendance. Howard pool was open from 6 a. m. for mixed swimming for adults and from 9 a. m. until 6 p. m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays for girls, with the same hours for boys on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, with 36,647 in attendance.

Swimming classes for boys and girls were held daily. The life-guards alternated in the instruction of the boys, and a woman instructor held classes on girls' day at Georgetown and Rosedale. It is estimated that the boys' classes were attended by approximately 650 during the season, and nearly 1,200 entered the girls' classes.

One of the life guards at Howard pool was an accredited Red Cross swimming examiner, who gave swimming tests and awarded

the Red Cross buttons to 73, including 29 swimmers and 44 beginners. There was always a woman attendant at Howard on girls' days. The pools were well patronized during the season of 1926, and record attendance was established in several instances. Howard pool had an attendance of 1,695 in one day, which is the highest recorded at any of the pools. It is obvious that accommodations at the present time are inadequate for such crowds. The total attendance on all three pools for the season 1926 was 89,163.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

There is no factor more potent in determining the character of the future citizen than play. The greatest lessons in life may be learned in organized play—obedience, teamwork, respect for the rights of others—all desirable qualifications in the coming citizen. The park playgrounds are far more attractive to the child than any other. Playgrounds should be within walking distance of every boy and girl, as most children can not afford to pay car fare.

We believe that street play is never advisable; we believe that the recreation department should be interested in neighborhood festivals rather than in city-wide celebrations. We believe the establishment of equipped playgrounds on land not owned by the District, the schools, or the Federal Government, is poor policy.

Recreation on playgrounds has a wide and varied scope. The responsibility is constant and must be assumed by every citizen who interests himself in civic good if every child is finally to be given opportunity for supervised play within walking distance of the home, just as necessary as this is the provision of athletic fields for the older boys of the community.

Field houses should be constructed that are attractive, and the buildings should be of such size as to provide generous accommodations; office for the director and one or more recreation rooms to be used in extremely hot, cold, or stormy weather. In the best type of field house, shower baths, dressing rooms, and lockers are included. At present, with the exception of Georgetown and Rosedale, the shelters on the playgrounds owned by the District are not attractive or comfortable. The lodges constructed by the Federal Government at Garfield and Willow Tree are pleasing in appearance and would be generally satisfactory if they had a larger general playroom for indoor use.

The playgrounds of Washington have now been in operation 24 years and at no time has there been sufficient funds to put these playgrounds in shipshape. Many of the old grounds are now in need of resurfacing, the new sites need grading, they all need landscaping, some need the installing of water mains, building of fences, and most of them need a community or field house and wading pools. The population of our city so far as can be seen will increasingly continue as will the helplessness of the children and youth to determine their environment.

In view of the fact that the swimming facilities of the city will be increased by the opening of the new pools recently authorized by Congress, it would be well, starting next season, to use the pools on the Monument grounds as teaching pools entirely. The facilities are

ample for 6 classes of about 20 at one time. The subjects taught should consist of elementary and advanced swimming, fancy diving, and life-saving.

In view of the foregoing I beg to respectfully make the following recommendations:

That the municipal pools at Seventeenth and B Streets be turned into a free swimming and life-saving school open to children and adults of both sexes.

That in the vicinity of small playgrounds additional athletic fields be provided.

That in the opening of new subdivisions in the city, one-tenth of the ground, exclusive of streets, be set aside for playgrounds.

That every playground be provided with a wading pool and the larger grounds with a swimming pool, to be free to the children of the District.

That swimming pools for colored people be given immediate consideration.

That every playground be provided with a field house large enough for indoor recreation in extreme hot or cold weather.

That public-spirited citizens be reminded that there is no gift that can be made to the city of greater use and enjoyment, with more lasting honor to the donor, than the gift of land for a public playground.

That branch libraries be opened on all playgrounds.

That a part of the reservation known as Judiciary Square be transferred by Congress to the control of the District commissioners to be used for playground purposes. The exact location of the section desired is that part of the square north from E Street extending to F Street, between Fourth and Fifth Streets.

I take pleasure in presenting this report and have much pride in calling your attention to the splendid corps of efficient playground workers and the hearty cooperation of the various city departments. I am grateful to all who have aided in the advancement of this work. The department has had a strenuous but encouraging year in meeting the demands of its growing work. In closing I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to the daily press of the city for having contributed to the pleasure of the children and the success of the year by so generously giving space to our activities, bringing before the public the achievements of the playgrounds.

Respectfully submitted.

SUSIE ROOT RHODES,
Supervisor of Playgrounds.